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Malte Wedel

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EXAMINER

CHEN, QING

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2191

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/676,819	Applicant(s) WEDEL ET AL.	
	Examiner Qing Chen	Art Unit 2191	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 9-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 9-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is in response to the amendment filed on February 6, 2009, entered by the RCE filed on the same date.
2. **Claims 1-6 and 9-14** are pending.
3. **Claims 1, 9, and 14** have been amended.
4. **Claims 7 and 8** have been canceled.
5. The objections to Claims 9-13 are withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments to the claims.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

6. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 6, 2009 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

Claim Objections

7. **Claims 9-13** are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - **Claim 9** recites the limitations "the restored state," "the control," and "the stored data." Applicant is advised to change these limitations to read "the restored prior state,"

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“the at least one application control,” and “the stored application data,” respectively, for the purpose of providing them with proper explicit antecedent bases.

- **Claims 10-13** depend on Claim 9 and, therefore, suffer the same deficiency as Claim 9.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. **Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, and 11-14** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **US 5,990,906 (hereinafter “Hudson”)** in view of **US 6,377,964 (hereinafter “Sano”)**.

As per **Claim 1**, Hudson discloses:

- displaying a user interface in a client program, the user interface having a plurality of controls, the plurality of controls including multiple types of controls, each control having a state and a control data structure, wherein the state of the control includes a data state and a view state (*see Figure 2; Column 7: 39-45, “As noted above, the undo/redo feature of the present invention is preferably comprised in the LabVIEW graphical programming system from National Instruments Corporation. The LabVIEW graphical programming system includes a large number*

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of different function nodes, structure nodes, and other graphical programming constructs to which the undo/redo feature of the present invention applies.”; Column 9: 52-61, “In step 220 the method initializes data structures for the new transaction that has started. These data structures include the backup list, the type list, and the transaction table.”; Column 12: 33-37, “As shown, for a data change, the method stores the data in the transaction table in step 324. A data change generally involves the data that the user sees, e.g., the value of a number or a front panel control.” and 64-67 to Column 13: 1-4, “As shown, an edit change can comprise either a creation of an object, deletion of an object, or modification of an object. In the preferred embodiment, the method uses a backup list for each transaction for backing up an object in response to an edit change.”);

- for each control in the plurality of controls, storing the state of the control as a first state for the control in the control data structure (*see Column 10: 41-43, “If an object is required to be modified as determined in step 304, then in step 306 the method stores information regarding the object, i.e., backs up the object.”*);

- receiving user input comprising a change to the state of a control in the plurality of controls (*see Column 10: 48-51, “In step 308 the graphical programming system applies the change to the object. In other words, in step 308 the user input received in step 202 is applied to perform a transaction or change in the graphical program.”*);

- updating the state of the control based on the user input (*see Column 10: 48-51, “In step 308 the graphical programming system applies the change to the object. In other words, in step 308 the user input received in step 202 is applied to perform a transaction or change in the graphical program.”*);

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- storing the updated state of the control as a second state for the control in the control data structure *(see Column 13: 7-11, “The backup list comprises a list of pairs of entries for each transaction, more specifically a list of pairs of ObjIDs. The entries in each pair are referred to as current and previous entries, also referred to as foreground and background entries.”)*;
- receiving user input comprising a request to undo the change *(see Column 15: 45-48, “As shown, in step 402 the user selects the undo or redo option.”)*;
- determining whether the change affects the data state of the control *(see Column 16: 1, “In step 410 the method undoes data changes.”)*;
- determining whether the change affects the view state of the control *(see Column 15: 54, “In step 408, the method undoes edit changes.”)*;
- restoring the state of the control to reflect the first state for the control *(see Column 15: 54, “In step 408, the method undoes edit changes.”; Column 16: 1, “In step 410 the method undoes data changes.”)*; and
- clearing the stored first state for the control and the stored second state for the control from the control data structure *(see Column 9: 24-51, “After completing any existing transaction and marking the Undo data structures as finished in step 208, in step 210 the method purges any Undo information which is beyond the Undo limit set in the preference settings. In other words, in step 210 the method examines the maximum number of Undos that the user has set in the preferences setting and purges any Undo information beyond this limit.” and “Also, in step 210 the method purges all redo information. All Redo information is purged at the start of a new transaction because the method does not support branching.”)*.

However, Hudson does not disclose:

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- transmitting the restored state of the control to a server.

Sano discloses:

- transmitting the restored state of the control to a server (*see Column 10: 55-60, "It is assumed designer A executes the undo function in this state. This operation corresponds to the cancel command for the operation of "deletion of element 2" in this example according to FIG. 30. This operation is interpreted by the undo function execution unit 14 and transmitted to the database server 20 via the network 1."*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Sano into the teaching of Hudson to include transmitting the restored state of the control to a server. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to store the history of user operations in a separate database in order to limit the amount of memory/storage used in the user's computer system (*see Sano – Column 5: 14-45*).

As per **Claim 3**, the rejection of **Claim 1** is incorporated; and Hudson further discloses:

- restoring the state of the control only if the change affects the data state of the control (*see Column 16: 1, "In step 410 the method undoes data changes."*).

As per **Claim 4**, the rejection of **Claim 1** is incorporated; and Hudson further discloses:

- receiving user input comprising a request to redo the change to the control (*see Column 15: 45-48, "As shown, in step 402 the user selects the undo or redo option."*); and

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- restoring the state of the control to reflect the second state for the control (*see Column 15: 54, "In step 408, the method undoes edit changes."; Column 16: 1, "In step 410 the method undoes data changes."*).

As per **Claim 9**, Hudson discloses:

- generating a plurality of data structures that store application data and associations between the application data and a plurality of application controls, wherein each application control of the plurality of application controls has a state and a control data structure, wherein the state of each application control of the plurality of application controls includes a data state and a view state, and wherein each application control of the plurality of application controls is rendered based on the application data (*see Figure 2; Column 7: 39-45, "As noted above, the undo/redo feature of the present invention is preferably comprised in the LabVIEW graphical programming system from National Instruments Corporation. The LabVIEW graphical programming system includes a large number of different function nodes, structure nodes, and other graphical programming constructs to which the undo/redo feature of the present invention applies."; Column 9: 52-61, "In step 220 the method initializes data structures for the new transaction that has started. These data structures include the backup list, the type list, and the transaction table."; Column 12: 33-37, "As shown, for a data change, the method stores the data in the transaction table in step 324. A data change generally involves the data that the user sees, e.g., the value of a number or a front panel control." and 64-67 to Column 13: 1-4, "As shown, an edit change can comprise either a creation of an object, deletion of an object, or*

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modification of an object. In the preferred embodiment, the method uses a backup list for each transaction for backing up an object in response to an edit change.”);

- detecting that at least one application control of the plurality of application controls has changed from a prior state to a new state (*see Column 10: 48-51, “In step 308 the graphical programming system applies the change to the object. In other words, in step 308 the user input received in step 202 is applied to perform a transaction or change in the graphical program.”);*
- determining whether the change affects the data state of the at least one application control (*see Column 16: 1, “In step 410 the method undoes data changes.”);*
- determining whether the change affects the view state of the at least one application control (*see Column 15: 54, “In step 408, the method undoes edit changes.”);*
- recording the prior state of the at least one application control (*see Column 10: 41-43, “If an object is required to be modified as determined in step 304, then in step 306 the method stores information regarding the object, i.e., backs up the object.”);*
- updating at least one data structure of the plurality of data structures based on the new state (*see Column 13: 7-11, “The backup list comprises a list of pairs of entries for each transaction, more specifically a list of pairs of ObjIDs. The entries in each pair are referred to as current and previous entries, also referred to as foreground and background entries.”);*
- receiving user input requesting that an undo operation be performed (*see Column 15: 45-48, “As shown, in step 402 the user selects the undo or redo option.”);*
- performing the undo operation by restoring the at least one application control to the prior state (*see Column 15: 54, “In step 408, the method undoes edit changes.”; Column 16: 1, “In step 410 the method undoes data changes.”);*

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- updating the at least one data structure of the plurality of data structures based on the prior state (*see Column 13: 7-11, "The backup list comprises a list of pairs of entries for each transaction, more specifically a list of pairs of ObjIDs. The entries in each pair are referred to as current and previous entries, also referred to as foreground and background entries."*); and
- clearing the stored application data in the at least one data structure of the plurality of data structures (*see Column 9: 24-51, "After completing any existing transaction and marking the Undo data structures as finished in step 208, in step 210 the method purges any Undo information which is beyond the Undo limit set in the preference settings. In other words, in step 210 the method examines the maximum number of Undos that the user has set in the preferences setting and purges any Undo information beyond this limit." and "Also, in step 210 the method purges all redo information. All Redo information is purged at the start of a new transaction because the method does not support branching."*).

However, Hudson does not disclose:

- transmitting the restored prior state of the at least one application control to a server.

Sano discloses:

- transmitting the restored prior state of the at least one application control to a server (*see Column 10: 55-60, "It is assumed designer A executes the undo function in this state. This operation corresponds to the cancel command for the operation of "deletion of element 2" in this example according to FIG. 30. This operation is interpreted by the undo function execution unit 14 and transmitted to the database server 20 via the network 1."*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Sano into the teaching of Hudson to include

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transmitting the restored prior state of the at least one application control to a server. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to store the history of user operations in a separate database in order to limit the amount of memory/storage used in the user's computer system (*see Sano – Column 5: 14-45*).

As per **Claim 11**, the rejection of **Claim 9** is incorporated; and Hudson further discloses:

- wherein the at least one data structure of the plurality of data structures is stored on a client device (*see Figure 1: 12*).

As per **Claim 12**, the rejection of **Claim 9** is incorporated; and Hudson further discloses:

- wherein the plurality of application controls include multiple types of controls (*see Column 7: 39-45, "As noted above, the undo/redo feature of the present invention is preferably comprised in the LabVIEW graphical programming system from National Instruments Corporation. The LabVIEW graphical programming system includes a large number of different function nodes, structure nodes, and other graphical programming constructs to which the undo/redo feature of the present invention applies."*).

As per **Claim 13**, the rejection of **Claim 9** is incorporated; and Hudson further discloses:

- wherein the associations between the application data and the plurality of application controls are defined by metadata (*see Column 9: 52-61, "In step 220 the method initializes data structures for the new transaction that has started. These data structures include the backup list, the type list, and the transaction table."*).

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Claim 14 is an apparatus claim corresponding to the computer program product claim above (Claim 1) and, therefore, is rejected for the same reason set forth in the rejection of Claim 1.

10. **Claim 2** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Hudson** in view of **Sano** as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of “**HTML 4.01 Specification,**” **December 1999 (hereinafter “HTML1999”).**

As per **Claim 2**, the rejection of **Claim 1** is incorporated; however, Hudson and Sano do not disclose:

- wherein the multiple types of controls include one or more of a text field control type, a radio button control type, a table control type, a tray control type, and a menu control type.

HTML1999 discloses:

- wherein the multiple types of controls include one or more of a text field control type, a radio button control type, a table control type, a tray control type, and a menu control type (*see Section 17.2.1*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of HTML1999 into the teaching of Hudson to include wherein the multiple types of controls include one or more of a text field control type, a radio button control type, a table control type, a tray control type, and a menu control type. The

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modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to enhance usability.

11. **Claims 5 and 6** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Hudson** in view of **Sano** as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of **US 6,167,455 (hereinafter “Friedman”)**.

As per **Claim 5**, the rejection of **Claim 1** is incorporated; however, Hudson and Sano do not disclose:

- wherein the user input comprising the request to undo the change is received while focus is not on the control.

Friedman discloses:

- wherein the user input comprising the request to undo the change is received while focus is not on the control (*see Column 2: 36-44, “The individual command objects are linked, so that one command object can be accessed and invoked in one context, when the other command object is invoked in an active context. This allows for synchronization of the execution of the command objects, so that both command objects are either done or undone at the same time. In this manner, the user will perceive the action as unified, even though it affects data objects in two contexts.”*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Friedman into the teaching of Hudson to include wherein the user input comprising the request to undo the change is received while focus

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is not on the control. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to produce consistent results (*see Friedman – Column 2: 64-67*).

As per **Claim 6**, the rejection of **Claim 1** is incorporated; however, Hudson and Sano do not disclose:

- wherein restoring the state of the control includes restoring the state of another control that shares data with the control.

Friedman discloses:

- wherein restoring the state of the control includes restoring the state of another control that shares data with the control (*see Column 2: 44-47, “The user can thus cause the do and undo method of one command object to be invoked, and the corresponding do or undo method of a linked command object will also be invoked.”*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Friedman into the teaching of Hudson to include wherein restoring the state of the control includes restoring the state of another control that shares data with the control. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to produce consistent results (*see Friedman – Column 2: 64-67*).

12. **Claim 10** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Hudson** in view of **Sano** as applied to Claim 9 above, and further in view of **US 6,543,006 (hereinafter “Zundel”)**.

As per **Claim 10**, the rejection of **Claim 9** is incorporated; however, Hudson and Sano do not disclose:

- wherein the at least one of the plurality of data structures is at least one data tree.

Zundel discloses:

- wherein the at least one of the plurality of data structures is at least one data tree (*see Column 4: 40-46, "Program 30 utilizes several Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) data structures to track design data and design intent. These structures will be briefly discussed to provide a foundation for terminology used throughout this description. These DAGs are presented purely for exemplary purposes--other data structures, such as non-directional graphs, trees, etc., can also be used."*; Column 8: 60 and 61, "Note also that either a linear list or hierarchical tree can be used to track operations and related program states.").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Zundel into the teaching of Hudson to include wherein the at least one of the plurality of data structures is at least one data tree. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to make information easier to manipulate and search.

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 1, 9, and 14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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In the Remarks, Applicant argues:

a) Hudson does not disclose each and every element of Applicants' claimed invention. Hudson fails to disclose, inter alia, "transmitting the restored state of the control to a server; and clearing the stored first state for the control and the stored second state for the control from the control data structure," as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Examiner's response:

a) Examiner disagrees. With respect to the Applicant's assertion that Hudson fails to disclose "clearing the stored first state for the control and the stored second state for the control from the control data structure," the Examiner respectfully submits that Hudson clearly discloses "clearing the stored first state for the control and the stored second state for the control from the control data structure" (see Column 9: 24-51, "After completing any existing transaction and marking the Undo data structures as finished in step 208, in step 210 the method purges any Undo information which is beyond the Undo limit set in the preference settings. In other words, in step 210 the method examines the maximum number of Undos that the user has set in the preferences setting and purges any Undo information beyond this limit." and "Also, in step 210 the method purges all redo information. All Redo information is purged at the start of a new transaction because the method does not support branching.").

Therefore, for at least the reason set forth above, the rejections made under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) with respect to Claims 1, 9, and 14 are proper.

Conclusion

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Qing Chen whose telephone number is 571-270-1071. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The Examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Wei Zhen, can be reached on 571-272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Q. C./

Examiner, Art Unit 2191

/Wei Y Zhen/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2191